MARVEL

MARVEL KNIGHTS

KNIGHTS

#9

MARVEL KNIGHTS®

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DIXON
BARRETO
NELSON

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FINAL MATTERS

CHUCK DIXON
STORY

ED BARRETO
PENCILS

NELSON
INKS

AVALON STUDIOS' DAVE KEMP
COLORS

RS & COMICRAFT'S
SAIDA T! LETTERS

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CASTLE?

I PULLED YOUR BUTT OUT OF THE *FIRE*, MOON KNIGHT.

BUNCH OF GOONS WERE CARRYING YOU OFF DOWN THIRD AVENUE.

YOU DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT *THEY* HAD PLANNED.

ALL THAT REALLY *HAPPENED?*

I'M AS IN THE DARK AS *YOU* ARE.

I RAN INTO SOME FREAK IN A TEN-ACRE *CAPE* AND I WIND UP HERE...

PRE-*GIULIANI* NEW YORK.

CLOAK.

THIS IS THE WORLD *INSIDE* OF CLOAK'S CAPE. BUT WE DIDN'T KNOW IT'D BE LIKE *THIS*.

"WE"?

DAREDEVIL AND BLACK WIDOW AND I. WE FOUND CLOAK.

BAM — WE'RE IN *WACKY* WORLD.

THEN WE GOT *SEPARATED*.

THE *ALTAR BOY'S* HERE, UH?

BET THIS PLACE TESTS *HIS* HEAD. NO ROOM FOR CRYBABY BLEEDING HEARTS *HERE*.

NEAR AS I CAN FIGURE THIS CITY'S POPULATION IS *EXCLUSIVELY* MADE UP OF HUMAN COCKROACHES.

NOT AN INNOCENT IN *SIGHT.*

WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY *OUT* OF HERE.

I'M NOT LEAVING.

I *LIKE* IT HERE.

FREE RANGES OF FIRE AND NO *CIVILIANS* UNDERFOOT.

GREAT FOR A GUY CALLED *THE PUNISHER.* BUT I WANT *OUT.* CAN YOU FIND DAREDEVIL AND NATASHA?

SURE. COME WITH *ME.*

LET'S GO *DOWNTOWN.*

WHAT *IS* IT, 'TASHA? I CAN'T SEE. *REALLY* CAN'T SEE.

IT'S SOME KIND OF *NIGHTMARE*, DAREDEVIL.

IT IS NIGHTMARE BY *NAME*, BLACK WIDOW.

YOUR FRIEND CLOAK SERVES AS A *PORTAL* TO A WORLD OF HORROR BEYOND YOUR ABILITY TO IMAGINE.

WHAT CAN WE DO, DR. STRANGE? HOW DO WE *ESCAPE* THIS PLACE?

FAILING *THAT*, HOW DO WE KEEP THIS *NIGHTMARE* FROM ENTERING *OUR* WORLD?

THERE IS LITTLE FOR US TO DO BUT BEAR *WITNESS*.

"THE REST IS UP TO *DAGGER*.

"IT IS ONLY *HER* RELATIONSHIP TO CLOAK THAT CAN END THIS."

THIS HAS GONE FAR *ENOUGH*, CLOAK.

HAS IT, DAGGER?

I THINK THAT I'M JUST *BEGINNING.*

I CAN FEEL THE DARKNESS GROWING IN ME. CAN YOU *FEEL* IT?

YES, AND IT *SCARES* ME.

YOU NEED *PARAMEDICS*, PAL? OR IS THAT GUY *DEAD?*

HE IS PAST ANY HELP *WE* MIGHT GIVE.

BUT HE YET LIVES. HIS *PHYSICAL* FORM IN ANY CASE.

JOIN ME IN THE SHADOWS, DAGGER.

CAST ASIDE THE LIGHT AND FALL INTO DARKNESS.

NO...

YOU RELEASE MY FRIENDS FROM YOUR CLOAK! YOU COME INTO THE *LIGHT!*

IT'S WHERE WE BOTH *BELONG!*

I DON'T WANT TO *HURT* YOU THIS WAY!

UNNH! UUH!

PLEASE, *LISTEN* TO ME. IT CAN BE LIKE IT WAS *BEFORE.*

NEVER!

WHO WILL PUNISH THE *GUILTY?*

WHO WILL CONSIGN THE *WICKED* TO BLACK OBLIVION?

YOU'VE GONE TOO *FAR!* YOU'VE LOST THE *WAY,* CLOAK!

I SERVE JUSTICE! I SERVE VENGEANCE!

THERE IS NO OUTER BOUNDARY TO RETRIBUTION!

THEN YOU DON'T LEAVE ME A *CHOICE*, CLOAK.

I'LL USE *ALL* MY POWER AGAINST YOU.

SEE THE ALTAR BOY ANYWHERE, SPECTOR?

NO SIGN, CASTLE.

YOU CHECK A **WEATHER** REPORT LATELY?

WHY?

'CAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF **WEIRDNESS.**

SOMETHING FLYING IN THE CENTER, FROM THE EYE OF THE STORM.

A LOT OF SOMETHINGS.

TURN THIS CHOPPER *AROUND*, CASTLE.

"WE ARE WAY, *WAY* OUTGUNNED HERE."

NIGHTMARE'S POWER MOVES NORTH.

OVER THE BATTERY AND HEADING FOR WASHINGTON SQUARE

WE'D BETTER NOT BE HERE WHEN IT GETS TO MADISON SQUARE PARK.

FOLLOW MY VOICE, DARLING.

STRANGE, YOU SAID THAT DAGGER WAS OUR ONLY HOPE.

SHE HAS THE MIND OF A CHILD.

A CHILD WHOSE TALENTS I AM UNABLE TO EXPLAIN.

AND SHE MAKES THEM FELT EVEN IN THIS ACCURSED PLANE.

WHAT IS IT?

DAGGER IS PIERCING THE DARKNESS.

WITHOUT REALIZING IT, SHE'S TRYING TO WEAKEN NIGHTMARE'S HOLD ON HER FRIEND.

THERE, TO THE NORTH. THE SOURCE OF THE LIGHT. A DOORWAY BACK TO OUR EXISTENCE.

WE MUST REACH IT. SHOULD IT CLOSE, WE WILL BE ***STRANDED*** HERE.

AT THE MERCY OF ***NIGHTMARE.***

THAT'S ***MILES*** AWAY. HOW CAN WE REACH IT BEFORE THAT GREEN LIGHT WASHES OVER US?

TIME, SPACE AND REALITY HAVE NO MEANING HERE. THEY ARE ***MALLEABLE.***

THEY ARE SUBJECT TO YOUR ***WISHES*** HERE. AS WELL AS YOUR ***FEARS.***

DO YOU MEAN---

OH.

'TASHA?

YOU RELAX AND ***I'LL*** DRIVE.

DRIVE?

TRUST ME. WE'RE RUNNING EVERY LIGHT FROM HERE TO YONKERS.

HA! HA! HA!

LET'S SEE HOW THEY LIKE SOME HOT TRACERS.

LOSING *POWER*, SPECTOR!

HYDRAULICS ARE EIGHTY-SIXED!

LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN OUTFLY THEM!

I *NAILED* THAT FREAK ON THE HORSE.

I DON'T THINK HE'S *REAL*, CASTLE.

UH!

REAL *ENOUGH*, I GUESS!

KEEP HER FROM GOING INTO GYRO, CASTLE!

CYCLICS SHOT. THE ROTORS ARE SEIZING.

WE'RE COMING DOWN HARD, SPECTOR.

HE FLEW *THROUGH* US.

NOTICED THAT-- UH--

HE CHOPPED THIS RIDE UP WITH A *SWORD.*

UH-- *SAW THAT* TOO.

HOLD *ON* TO SOMETHING.

I DON'T *WANT* TO FIGHT YOU, CLOAK.

UH?

WE'RE FRIENDS, *CLOSER* THAN FRIENDS.

THAT *LIGHT*... CAN'T SEE.

IT COMES RIGHT THROUGH YOUR *EYELIDS*.

IT IS *TRUTH*. IT IS *REDEMPTION*.

ALL WE'VE *BEEN* THROUGH. ALL WE'VE *SURVIVED*.

AND YOU STILL HAVE *LOVE* IN YOUR HEART?

NOW MORE THAN *EVER*.

WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO THE SOURCE OF THE LIGHT.

OR IT'S GETTING CLOSER TO *US*.

'TASHA, IF THIS ENDS BADLY...

WE'LL *MAKE* IT.

BUT *IF* WE DON'T, I WANT--

IT'S OKAY...

I FEEL THE SAME WAY.

DAGGER IS *DISRUPTING* THIS WORLD'S REALITY.

I MUST *REJOIN* MY CORPOREAL FORM.

WE'LL CATCH UP, DOCTOR.

THE LIGHT... I FEEL LIKE IT'S BURNING *THROUGH* ME.

I WISH YOU COULD *SEE* IT, DAREDEVIL.

...I *CAN* SEE IT, 'TASHA.

YOU NEED A *SHOPPING* CART FOR ALL THAT ORDNANCE.

YOU *COULD* CARRY SOME.

I GAVE UP GUNS A LONG TIME AGO, CASTLE.

ALONG WITH YOUR WILL TO *LIVE.*

I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S WITH THAT GLOW COMING FROM OVER *HARLEM.*

WHAT'S *YOUR* STRATEGY?

TO DIE ON MY *FEET.*

THERE'S *THOUSANDS* OF THEM.

AND ALL *DENSELY PACKED* FOR MAXIMUM FIRE EFFECT.

IT'S ALL ABOUT *ANNIHILATION* WITH YOU, ISN'T IT?

MAYBE YOU'D RATHER BE WITH THE ALTAR BOY?

THE TWO OF YOU COULD SLAP THEM WITH YOUR *STICKS.*

UH!
HOLD STILL...
NO!
DON'T --
THANK ME LATER.
SKWEEE!
GUYS LIKE US DON'T GET TO DIE IN BED, I GUESS.
SO, THE ALTAR BOY CAME HERE LOOKING FOR ME, HUH?
HE'S DUMBER THAN I THOUGHT.

I WILL SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE.

IF OUR *LUCK* HOLDS.

LUCK IS NOT A *FACTOR* HERE.

ONLY *COURAGE*.

WELL, THERE GOES OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL.

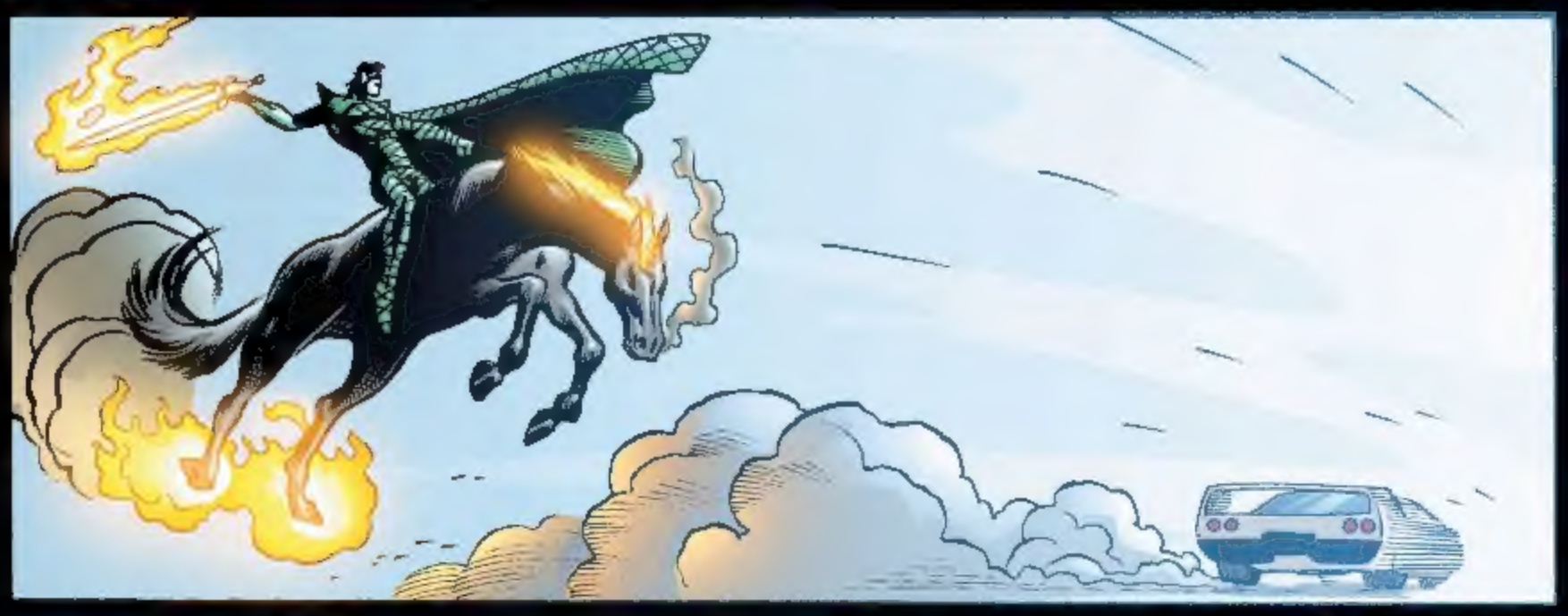
I'M NOT *USED* TO THIS. THIS IS SUCH A LONG WAY FROM HELL'S KITCHEN.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE *THERE*.

NO ONE COULD GET USED TO THIS.

СКОΩВКО!
NICE KNOWING YOU, CASTLE.
HM.
SHANG-CHI...
...DAGGER MUST KEEP THE PORTAL OPEN...
OR ELSE DOOM YOUR COMRADES.

IT IS... TOO LATE.



I THINK... I THINK WE'RE *HOME.*

TRY TO HIDE YOUR DISAPPOINTMENT.

HERE'S AN UNINTENDED BONUS.

THE ALTAR BOY. ME AND SPECTOR WERE *LOOKING* FOR YOU.

REALLY?

WELL, YOU *FOUND* ME.

UNGH!

THE COPS CAN HAVE HIM.

WASN'T TAKING DOWN THE PUNISHER OUR MAIN REASON FOR *CREATING* THIS GROUP?

I THINK TONIGHT PROVED OTHERWISE, FOLKS.

WE ACTED AS A *TEAM.* WE MET THE THREAT AND WE'RE STILL STANDING.

I SAY WE DON'T LET IT END WITH CASTLE.

"THERE'S LOTS OF WORK FOR PEOPLE LIKE US."

IT'S... IT'S...

TYRONE! IT'S YOU!

TANDY?

IT'S ME!

OH, I MISSED YOU!

SO THAT'S IT? DAGGER "CURED" HIM OF HIS POWERS?

HER LIGHT DISSIPATED THE DARKNESS WITHIN HIM.

BUT ONE QUESTION REMAINS...

...WHERE DID THE DARKNESS GO?

THE END

Shadowcat